

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05187 191008Z
ACTION INR-10

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R 190439Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 17
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5187
LB.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP KS
SUBJ: MORE ROK AMBASSADORIAL CHANGES

1. ROKG JUNE 15 ANNOUNCED FURTHER AMBASSADORIAL CHANGES, AS
FOLLOWS:

2. AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE -- YI SANG-OK (LEE SANG-OCK), PRESENT
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IN FOREIGN
MINISTRY. BORN IN 1934, YI GRADUATED FROM SEOUL NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY IN 1957, AND ENTERED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT YEAR.
HE SERVED SEVERAL TOURS ALTERNATELY IN WASHINGTON AND THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY, WITH A BRIEF ASSIGNMENT IN BONN AS WELL. HIS RECENT
ASSIGNMENTS HAVE INCLUDED POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON,
DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICA DIVISION II (U.S. MILITARY AFFAIRS),
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND SINCE 1976
ASSISTANT MINISTER. FILES DESCRIBE HIM AS A QUIET AND
UNASSUMING INDIVIDUAL WITH A REPUTATION FOR BUSINESS-LIKE
COOPERATION WITH HIS U.S. COUNTERPARTS, AND AN ABILITY TO
FIND ACCOMMODATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND ROK POSITIONS. THE
POSITIONS HE HAS HELD, WHICH HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST
SENSITIVE IN THE MINISTRY, INDICATE THAT HE IS REGARDED
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AS A RELIABLE AND EFFECTICW OPERATOR FROM THE ROKG POINT
OF VIEW. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL AND IS AN AVID GOLFER.

3. AMBASSADOR TO PARAGUAY -- PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO
ETHIOPIA PAK CHUN-HA (PARQDJOOON-HA). BORN IN 1925, PAK
GRADUATED FROM THE KOREAN MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1948 AND
RETIRED IN 1962 AS A COLONEL. HE WAS IMMEDIATELY SENT

TO RANGOON AAICONSUL GENERAL, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL 1968. HE THEN SERVED IN ROME AND SYDNEY, BECOMING AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA IN 1975.

4. AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA -- PRESENT MINISTER IN PARAMARIBO CHONG HUI-TAEK (CHUNG HEE-TEAK). BORN IN 1930, CHONG GRADUATED FROM THE ROK NAVAL ACADEMY IN 1951 AND RETIRED FROM THE NAVY TEN YEARS LATER AS A LT. COMMANDER. HIS SUBSEQUENT SERVICE WAS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, URUGUAY, AND GUATEMALA. HE WAS NAMED MINISTER (AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES) TO SURINAM IN 1976.

5. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN SURINAM -- YI MUN-SU (LEE MOON-SOO). YI WAS BORN IN 1926 IN SEOUL, STUDIED AT YONSEI UNIVERSITY, AND HAS BEEN IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE SINCE 1955. HIS SERVICE HAS INCLUDED ASSIGNMENTS IN THE U.S., JAPAN, BURMA, AND IRAN, WHERE HE HAS BEEN MINISTER SINCE 1976. EMBASSY FILES DESCRIBE HIM AS PERSONABLE, SOCIABLE, AND COOPERATIVE WITH AMERICANS.

6. ADDITIONAL PERSONAL COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED FROM POSTS THAT HAVE HAD RECENT CONTACT WITH THE ABOVE OFFICIALS. SNEIDER

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